

## Key Indicators of Progress Toward Postsecondary Reform

Action: The staff recommends that the council approve new goals for three indicators under Question 1 (two in ACT performance and one in affordability) and one under Question 2 (college-going).

Updated results are available for four indicators under question 1: Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education? Results for these indicators are mixed. Kentucky has made progress in increasing the affordability of postsecondary education but must work harder to ensure its high school graduates are well prepared for college.

The staff proposes revision of several indicators under questions 1 and 2. The overarching key indicator goals remain unchanged. The proposed revisions reflect recent national efforts in assessing postsecondary education.

The staff further proposes establishing goals for 2003 through 2006 for the updated and revised indicators.

### ACT

ACT results for the high school graduating class of 2002 are now available. These results allow us to measure progress in three indicators:

- Kentucky's average ACT score for high school graduates (indicator 1.3) fell from 20.1 in 2001 to 20.0 in 2002. The average national score saw a similar decline, dropping from 21.0 in 2001 to 20.8 in 2002. Kentucky failed to achieve its 2002 goal (an average score of 20.2) for this indicator. Using the "traffic light" evaluation scheme, the light assigned to indicator 1.3 remains red, indicating "no progress."
- The percentage of high school graduates taking the ACT (indicator 1.4) remained unchanged at 72 percent. A red light is assigned to this indicator.
- The percentage of high school students completing the ACT core coursework (indicator 1.6) rose dramatically between 2001 and 2002, from 48 percent to 58 percent. Kentucky's 2002 completion rate equaled the national average. Despite this improvement, Kentucky failed to reach its 2002 goal. A yellow light, indicating "some progress," is assigned to this indicator.

The table on page 29 includes detailed information about Kentucky's ACT performance since 1998 on three indicators and proposed goals for 2003 to 2006 for indicators 1.3 and 1.4. Kentucky's long-term goals are to reach the national average score and to increase the number of graduates taking the ACT to 95 percent by 2014. Pending approval by the council and the Kentucky Board of Education, the goals outlined in the attachment anticipate steadily approaching these long-term goals over the next several years. The council staff will continue to work with the Kentucky Department of Education and the P-16 Council to achieve these goals. Goals for indicator 1.6 will be proposed at a later date, pending the outcomes of the American Diploma Project.

## **Affordability**

Three "family ability to pay" measures from *Measuring Up* are used to gauge progress for indicator 1.8, affordability. The goal for 2002 was to maintain our relative standing. Kentucky achieved this goal by narrowing the gap between our performance and the performance of the top states in two measures, family ability to pay at public and at private four-year colleges. In the third measure, the proportion of average family income required to attend public two-year colleges in the state, Kentucky's performance remained steady between 2000 and 2002 at 17 percent, while the top performing states dropped from 17 to 16 percent. Because Kentucky improved its standing relative to leading states in two of the three measures of affordability, a green light is assigned for indicator 1.8.

The light for question 1, which incorporates the updated results for preparation of high school students and affordability, remains yellow, indicating some progress.

The staff proposes expanding the definition of indicator 1.8 to include the entire affordability category from *Measuring Up*:

- percent of income needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid at community colleges
- percent of income needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid at public four-year colleges and universities
- percent of income needed to pay for college expenses minus financial aid at private four-year colleges and universities
- state grant aid targeted to low-income families as a percent of federal Pell Grant aid
- share of income that poorest families need to pay for tuition at lowest price colleges
- average loan amount that undergraduate students borrow each year

The staff further proposes establishing a goal for indicator 1.8 that Kentucky will show improvement in all six affordability indicators in the 2004 and 2006 versions of *Measuring Up*. This revised definition offers a more complete picture of the costs of postsecondary education in Kentucky as well as the resources available to help defray those costs.

Detailed information about Kentucky's current performance on these indicators is shown in the *Measuring Up* agenda item beginning on page 13.

## College-Going

Two current key indicators measure the college-going rate of recent high school graduates:

- 2.7: percentage of students attending college directly out of high school
- 2.8: percentage of students attending college directly out of high school from target counties

Varying definitions of college-going and availability of data have made it difficult to compare Kentucky's results for indicator 2.7 with national results. The staff proposes replacing the existing indicator 2.7 with an indicator that measures college-going using the methodology established in *Measuring Up*: the percentage of high school freshmen enrolling in college within four years in any state. Using this methodology, Kentucky had a college-going rate of 36 percent in 2000 and 37 percent in 2002. The top-performing states had a college-going rate of 54 percent in 2002. The goal for the revised indicator 2.7 is to increase the percentage and also to narrow the gap with top performing states in the 2004 and 2006 versions of *Measuring Up*.

Indicator 2.8 measures the college-going rate in the council's 67 target counties. The target counties were identified as those with high unemployment and low educational attainment and college-going. Many of the calculations used to identify these counties incorporated data that is now out-of-date. The staff proposes postponing further action for this indicator until further study is possible. A revised indicator 2.8 might use data from the 2000 census to identify a revised set of target counties, or use the areas served by local P-16 councils as organizing principles for local measurements of progress toward reform.

Including the updated results for question 1 presented here, the council staff has assigned lights for 21 systemwide indicators. To date, there are 13 green lights, six yellow lights, and two red lights (see attached progress report). These results show that postsecondary reform is working and identify areas where further effort is needed.

Staff preparation by Christina Whitfield

Key Indicators of Progress toward Postsecondary Reform  
Question 1: Are more Kentuckians prepared for postsecondary education?

**1.3 Average ACT scores of high school graduates**

	Actual					Proposed Goals				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2014
Kentucky	20.2	20.1	20.1	20.1	20.0	20.2	20.3	20.4	20.5	National
US	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.8					Average

**1.4 Percentage of high school graduates taking the ACT**

	Actual					Proposed Goals				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2014
Kentucky	67%	68%	71%	72%	72%	74%	76%	78%	80%	95%

**1.6 Percentage of high school students completing the ACT core coursework**

	Actual					Proposed Goals*				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2014
Kentucky	43%	44%	47%	48%	58%					
US	61%	60%	61%	60%	58%					

\*Updated in 2003

Source: ACT

# Key Indicators of Progress

## toward Postsecondary Reform in Kentucky



November 2002 - Progress Report

### 1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education? .....Some progress

#### Preparation of Adults

- ☐ 1. Percentage of adults at literacy levels one and two .....Next measurement 2002
- ☐ 2. Percentage of adults with less than high school diploma or GED .....Next measurement 2002

#### Preparation of Recent High School Graduates

- ☒ 3. Average ACT scores of high school graduates .....No progress\*
- ☒ 4. Percentage of high school graduates taking the ACT .....No progress\*
- ☒ 5. Number of college-level courses per 1,000 HS juniors and seniors .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- ☒ 6. Percentage of high school students completing ACT core coursework .....Some progress\*
- ☐ 7. High school test scores .....Under development

#### Affordability (Family Ability to Pay)

- ☒ 8. Percentage of income needed to pay for college expenses .....Met 2002 goal\*

### 2. Are more students enrolling? .....Good progress

#### Postsecondary Enrollment

- ☒ 1. Number of undergraduates (system total) .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- ☒ 2. Number of graduates/professionals (public universities) .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- ☒ 3. Number of students enrolled in KYVU credit courses .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- ☐ 4. Number of "new students" enrolled in KYVU credit courses .....Under development

#### College Participation

- ☒ 5. Percentage of the adult population enrolled in KY colleges .....Met 2002 goal
- ☒ 6. Percentage enrolled from target counties .....Some progress

#### College-Going

- ☒ 7. Percentage of students attending college directly out of high school .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- ☒ 8. Percentage from target counties .....Good progress
- ☒ 9. College-going rates of GED completers within two years .....Exceeded 2002 goal

### 3. Are more students advancing through the system? .....Good progress

#### Persistence and Completion

- ☒ 1. One-year retention rates of first-time freshmen, three-year average .....Some progress
- ☐ 2. One-year retention rates of underprepared students .....Next measurement 2002
- ☒ 3. One-year systemwide retention rate of first-time freshmen .....Good progress
- ☒ 4. Number of community and technical college transfers .....Some progress
- ☒ 5. Average number of credit hours transferred .....Exceeded 2002 goal

#### Graduation

- ☐ 6. Percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher .....Next measurement 2002
- ☒ 7. Six-year graduation rates of bachelor's degree students .....Good progress
- ☒ 8. Five-year graduation rates of transfer students - three-year average .....Good progress

● 4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work? .....Under development

**Undergraduate Student Experience**

- 1. National Survey of Student Engagement.....Next measurement 2003

**Alumni Satisfaction**

- 2. Undergraduate alumni survey results .....No goal  
○ 3. Graduate alumni survey results .....Under development

**Civic Engagement**

- 4. Undergraduate alumni survey .....No goal  
○ 5. National Survey of Student Engagement.....Next measurement 2003

**Knowledge and Skills**

- 6. Teacher Preparation Programs .....Under development  
○ 7. Foundational skills.....Under development

● 5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting? .....Good progress

**Employment of Graduates**

- 1. Percentage of college graduates working in Kentucky .....Under development  
○ 2. Percentage of out-of-state college graduates working in Kentucky.....Under development

**Employer and Community Satisfaction**

- 3. Employer and community satisfaction with KY graduates and completers .....Under development  
○ 4. Employer and community satisfaction with institutions' support .....Under development

**Research and Development**

- 5. Total research and development expenditures per full-time faculty.....Next measurement 2002  
● 6. Total extramural research and development expenditures .....Good progress  
● 7. Federal research and development expenditures .....Some progress  
○ 8. Endowments in knowledge-based economy (KBE) areas .....Next measurement 2002  
○ 9. Expenditures from endowments and gifts in KBE areas .....Next measurement 2002  
○ 10. Productivity of research space .....Under development

\* Results updated November 2002

**LEGEND**

● Good Progress   ● Some Progress   ● No Progress   ● Pending